

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A humidifier, comprising:
- a reservoir for containing water;
- 5 a wick wettable by water contained in the reservoir;
- a humidifier bottle for supplying water to the reservoir and pivotally situated in a humidifier bottle receptacle;
- a translating member responsive to the angular movement of the humidifier bottle, the translating member including a visual indicator to indicate the amount of water contained in the humidifier bottle; and
- 10 a biasing member cooperating with the translating member to situate the humidifier bottle in a first angular position in response to the bottle being empty, such that the bottle is displaced from the first angular position within the receptacle when the bottle contains water, wherein the amount of angular displacement of the bottle is a function of the amount of water in the bottle.
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2. The humidifier of claim 1, further comprising a cabinet, the cabinet having a display window therein such that the visual indicator is visible through the display window.
3. The humidifier of claim 2, further comprising a light source situated
- 20 adjacent the translating member.

4. The humidifier of claim 3, wherein the visual indicator includes a light emitting opening.

5. The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the translating member is mounted for lateral movement in response to pivotal movement of the bottle.

5 6. The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the translating member is mounted for rotational movement in response to pivotal movement of the bottle.

7. The humidifier of claim 3, further comprising an enclosure, wherein the light source is situated to flood the enclosure with light, and wherein the translating member is movably received in the enclosure.

10 8. The humidifier of claim 3, wherein the translating member comprises a light bearing conduit having one end adjacent the display window, wherein the light from the light source travels through the light bearing conduit and illuminates portions of the display window.

15 9. The humidifier of claim 3, wherein the translating member includes a notched portion for receiving light from the light source.

10. The humidifier of claim 3, wherein the light source is attached to the translating member and movable therewith.

11. The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the bottle includes a tab extending therefrom, such that the bottle is pivotable about the tab.

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12. The humidifier of claim 2, further comprising a graphic indicator situated adjacent the display window.

13. The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the display window includes a plurality of slots.

5 14. The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the display window includes a colored film.

15. A humidifier, comprising:
a reservoir for containing water;
a wick wettable by water contained in the reservoir;
10 a humidifier bottle for supplying water to the reservoir and pivotally situated in a humidifier bottle receptacle; and
first means for indicating the amount of water contained in the bottle;
second means cooperating with the first means for situating the humidifier bottle in
a first angular position in response to the bottle being empty, such that the
15 bottle is displaced from the first angular position within the receptacle when the bottle contains water, wherein the amount of angular displacement of the bottle is a function of the amount of water in the bottle.

16. The humidifier of claim 15, further comprising third means for illuminating the first means.

17. A method for indicating an amount of water contained in a humidifier water bottle situated in a humidifier, the method comprising:

biasing the humidifier bottle to a first angular position;

displacing the humidifier bottle from the first angular position as a function of the

5 amount of water contained within the humidifier bottle; and

illuminating a display window situated in a cabinet of the humidifier in response to

the position of the humidifier bottle to indicate the amount of water held

within the humidifier bottle.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein illuminating the display window includes:

10 illuminating the interior of a chamber having an opening therein; and

translating the angular position of the humidifier bottle to a member movably

received by the chamber to allow light to escape the chamber and

illuminate the display window.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein illuminating the display window includes:

15 illuminating an interior portion of a conduit such that light escapes one end of the

conduit; and

moving the conduit in response to movement of the humidifier to illuminate the

graphic.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein illuminating the interior portion of the

20 conduit includes attaching a light source to the conduit.